

Amendment Submitted with RCE
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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An optical communication system comprising:

a transmitter configured to transmit a plurality of optical signals over an optical information channel, each of said signals being at an associated wavelength in a range from about 1560 nm to about 1630 nm, wherein said optical information channel comprises at least one erbium doped fiber amplifier and at least one Raman amplifier configured to amplify said range of wavelengths, and wherein said at least one Raman amplifier includes multiple Raman pumps, each having a different pump wavelength in a range from about 1480 nm to about 1520 nm; and

a receiver configured to receive said plurality of optical signals.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Canceled)

5. (Original) A system according to claim 1, wherein said optical information channel spans at least 2,000 km between said transmitter and said receiver.

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6. (Cancelled)

7. (Canceled)

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) A method of transmitting a plurality of data signals on an optical information channel comprising:

modulating each of said data signals onto an associated wavelength in a range between about 1560 nm and about 1630 nm;

transmitting each said wavelength on said optical information channel and amplifying each said range of wavelengths using at least one erbium doped fiber amplifier and a plurality of Raman pumps, each having a pump wavelength in a range from about 1480 nm to about 1520 nm.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9 further comprising:

regenerating said data signals after said data signals travel at least 2,000 km from a transmitter.